

# Math Practice Section 3: Hard and Difficult

Math Practice Section:  
Hard 20 Questions  
35 Minutes

For questions in the Quantitative Comparison format (“Quantity A” and “Quantity B” given), the answer choices are always as follows:

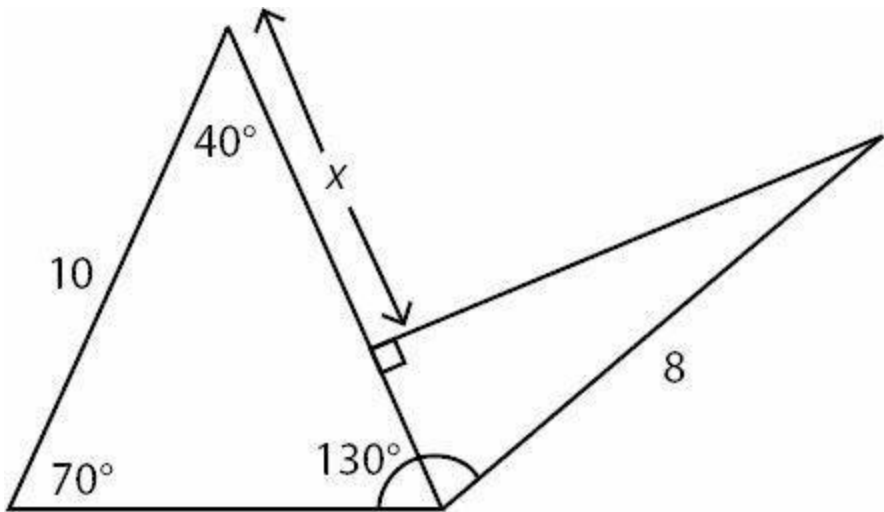
- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

For questions followed by a numeric entry box , you are to enter your own answer in the

box. For questions followed by fraction-style numeric entry boxes , you are to enter your answer in the form of a fraction. You are not required to reduce fractions. For example, if the answer is  $\frac{1}{4}$ , you may enter 25/100 or any equivalent fraction.

All numbers used are real numbers. All figures are assumed to lie in a plane unless otherwise indicated. Geometric figures are not necessarily drawn to scale. You should assume, however, that lines that appear to be straight are actually straight, points on a line are in the order shown, and all geometric objects are in the relative positions shown. Coordinate systems, such as  $xy$ -planes and number lines, as well as graphical data presentations such as bar charts, circle graphs, and line graphs, are drawn to scale. A symbol that appears more than once in a question has the same meaning throughout the question.

1.



Q uantity A

$$x$$

Q uantity B

$$6$$

Q uantity A

$$(z^6)^x \times z^{3x}$$

Q uantity B

$$z^{9x}$$

For a group of test takers, the scores on an aptitude test were normally distributed, had a mean of 154, and a standard deviation of 3.

Q uantity A

Q uantity B

The fraction of test takers in the group who scored greater than 158  $\frac{1}{3}$

$$3x + 5y + 2z = 20$$

$$6x + 4z = 10$$

Q uantity A

y by itself

Q uantity B

$$2$$

Romero Automobiles sells cars only from Manufacturer X and Manufacturer Y. The range of the list prices of the cars from Manufacturer X is \$22,000. The range of the list prices of the cars from Manufacturer Y is \$15,000.

Q uantity A

Q uantity B

The range of the list prices of all automobiles sold by Romero Automobiles is \$22,000

$$x\# = \frac{1}{x} + x$$

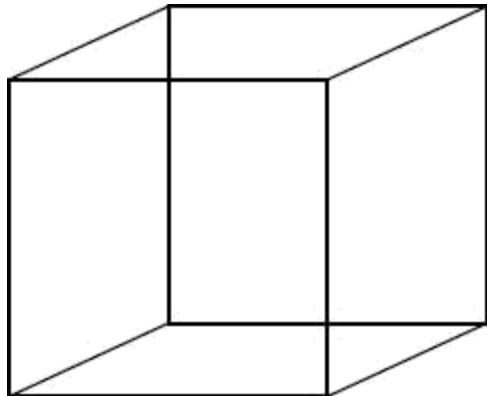
The operation # is defined by

Q uantity A

$$(4\#)\#$$

Q uantity B

$$4.5$$



The cube above has side length of 4

**Q uantity A**

After selecting one vertex of the cube, the number of straight line segments longer than 4 that can be drawn from that vertex of the cube to another vertex of the cube

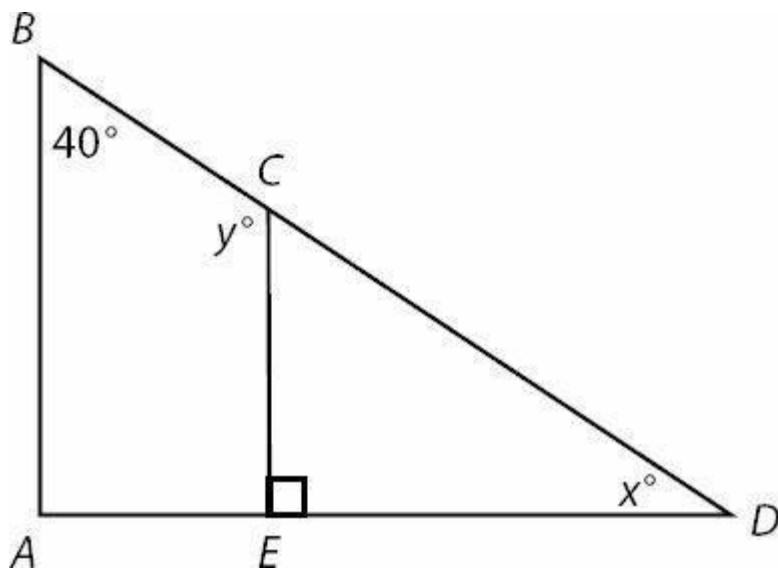
**Q uantity B**

When the cube is placed on a flat surface, the maximum number of edges of the cube that can be touching the flat surface at once

8. If  $160^2 = 16x$ , then  $x$  is equivalent to which of the following?

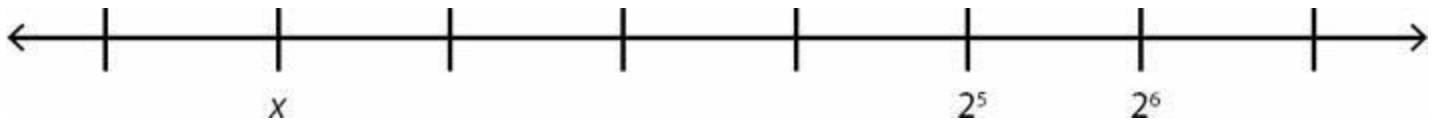
- (A) 10
- (B)  $2^3 5$
- (C)  $2^2 5^2$
- (D)  $2^6 5^2$
- (E)  $2^6 5^3$

9.



In the triangle shown above,  $BA$  is parallel to  $CE$ . What is the value of  $x + y$ ?

10.If the tick marks on the number line below are evenly spaced, what value is represented by  $x$ ?



- (A)  $2^0$
- (B)  $2$
- (C)  $(-2)2^5$
- (D)  $(-3)2^5$
- (E)  $(-4)2^5$

11.If the volume of a cube is  $v$ , what is the surface area of the cube in terms of  $v$ ?

- (A)  $6\sqrt{v}$
- (B)  $(\sqrt[2]{v})^3$
- (C)  $6(\sqrt[2]{v})^3$
- (D)  $(\sqrt[3]{v})^2$
- (E)  $6(\sqrt[3]{v})^2$

12.What is the area of an equilateral triangle with vertices at  $(-1,-3)$ ,  $(9,-3)$ , and  $(m,n)$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are both positive numbers?

- (A)  $25\sqrt{2}$
- (B)  $50\sqrt{2}$
- (C)  $10\sqrt{3}$
- (D)  $25\sqrt{3}$
- (E)  $50\sqrt{3}$

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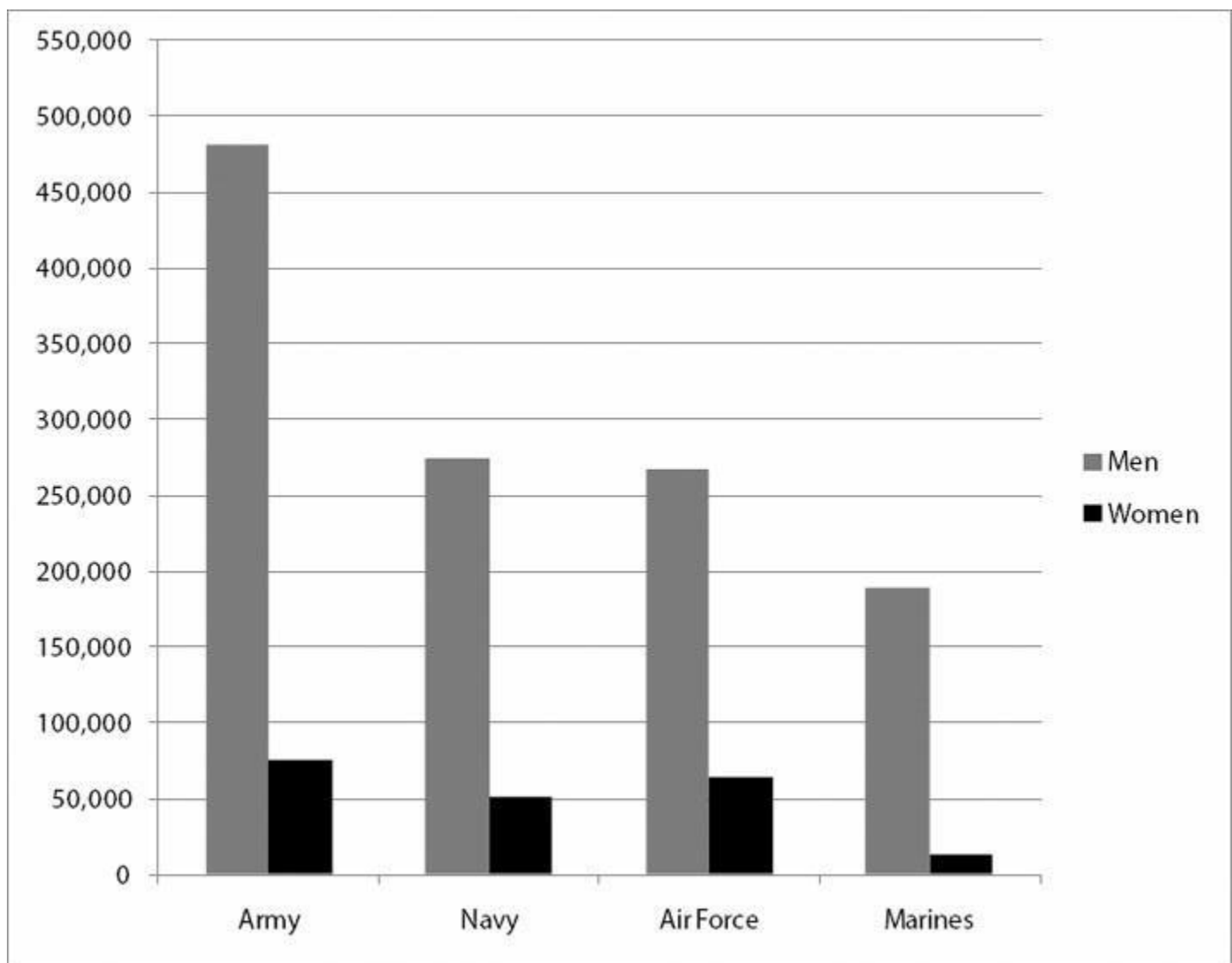
Questions 13–15 are based on the following charts.

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Marital Status of Military Personnel by Gender and Branch

Marital Status		Army	Navy	Air Force	Marines
Single, no children less than 18 years old	men	164,513	107,349	94,800	90,949
	women	27,492	24,757	25,247	6,338
Single, with children less than 18 years old	men	26,571	10,506	9,544	4,807
	women	11,037	5,859	6,313	1,263
Married, spouse is also military personnel or retired military	men	15,058	8,638	20,760	4,719
	women	14,633	8,832	18,574	3,676
Married, spouse is a civilian	men	275,953	147,255	142,573	88,233
	women	21,687	11,175	13,982	1,858

**N um ber of M ilitary P ersonnel by G ender and B ranch**



13. Which military branch has the greatest percentage of women who are single and have children under the age of 18?

- (A) Army
- (B) Navy

(C ) A ir Force

(D ) M arines

(E) It cannot be determ ined from the inform ation given.

14.If a m an w hose spouse is also m ilitary personnel or retired m ilitary w ere to be selected at random ,w hat w ould the probability be that he w as N O T in the A ir Force?

(A ) 72%

(B ) 58%

(C ) 42%

(D ) 24%

(E) 13%

15.W hich of the follow ing expressions is equal to the approxim ate num ber of w om en w ho w ould have to enlist in the A rm y to m ake the fraction of A rm y personnel w ho are w om en equal the fraction of A ir Force personnel w ho are w om en?

(A ssum e that the num ber of m en in the A rm y and the num ber of m en and w om en in the A ir Force rem ain unchanged from w hat is show n in the tables above.)

(A) 
$$\frac{482,000 - 268,000}{75,000 - 64,000}$$

(B) 
$$\frac{(482,000)(64,000) - (75,000)(268,000)}{482,000}$$

(C) 
$$\frac{(482,000)(75,000) - (64,000)(268,000)}{482,000}$$

(D) 
$$\frac{(482,000)(75,000)}{268,000} - 64,000$$

(E) 
$$\frac{(482,000)(64,000)}{268,000} - 75,000$$

16.A cable car travels from C ity X to R esortville,m aking tw o stops in betw een.B etw een C ity X and the first stop,the

cable car travels  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total distance betw een C ity X and R esortville.B etw een the first stop and the second stop,the cable car travels  $\frac{3}{5}$  of the rem aining distance betw een the first stop and R esortville.W hat fraction of the entire distance from C ity X to R esortville rem ains betw een the second stop and R esortville?

(A)  $1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{3}{5}$

(B)  $1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{3}{5} \left( \frac{1}{3} \right)$

(C)  $1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{3}{5} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} \right)$

(D)  $1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \left( 1 - \frac{3}{5} \right)$

(E)  $1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5} \right)$

17. If  $p$  and  $q$  are integers and  $20p + 3q$  is odd, which of the following must be odd?

(A)  $p - q$

(B)  $p + 2q$

(C)  $3p + q$

(D)  $2p + q^2$

(E)  $3p + 3q$

18. 4,400 participants in a study were surveyed regarding side effects of a new medication, and  $x$  percent reported experiencing drowsiness. If  $x$  is rounded to the nearest integer, the result is 8. Which of the following could be the number of survey participants who reported experiencing drowsiness?

Indicate all such values.

☐ 325

☐ 330

☐ 352

☐ 375

$$\frac{5^3(4^{45} - 4^{43})}{225^2}$$

19. is equivalent to which of the following?

(A)  $4^{43}$

(B)  $4^{45}$

(C)  $4^{90} 5^3$

(D)  $4^{86} 5^3 3^3$

(E)  $4^{90} 5^3 3^3$

20. Price of Plane Ticket for an April 1 Flight Based on Date of Purchase

Price	When Purchased By
\$210	March 31

\$168	March 15
\$140	March 1

Harpreet purchased a ticket on March 1st. If he had purchased the ticket on March 2nd, he would have paid  $x$  percent more. If he had purchased the ticket on March 16th, he would have paid  $y$  percent more than he would have paid on March 2nd. What is the positive difference between  $x$  and  $y$ ?

- (A) 5
- (B) 14
- (C) 20
- (D) 25
- (E) 28

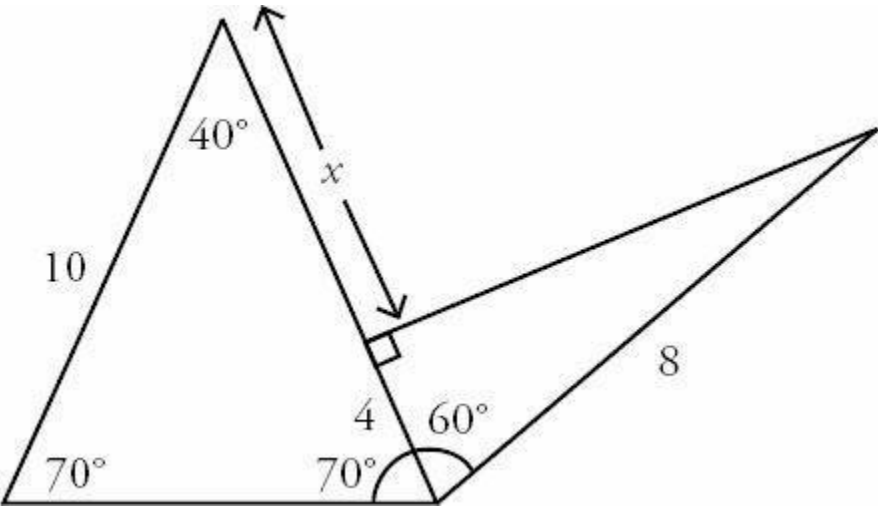


# Answers to Math Practice Section 3

1.(C ).The leftmost triangle has two angles labeled 40 and 70.Subtract these from 180 (the sum of the angles in any triangle) to determine that the third angle is 70.Subtract  $130 - 70 = 60$  to get the measure of the adjoining angle in the rightmost triangle.

Since the leftmost triangle is isosceles,the two long sides are each equal to 10.

Since the rightmost triangle is a 30–60–90 triangle,the sides are in the proportion  $x : \sqrt{3} x : 2x$ .Because the hypotenuse is 8 and also the  $2x$  in the ratio,the shortest leg of this triangle is  $x = 4$ .



To calculate  $x$ ,subtract:  $10 - 4 = 6$ .The two quantities are equal.

2.(C ).The terms in Quantity A have the same base,so add the exponents:  $(z^6)^x \times z^{3x} = z^{6x} \times z^{3x} = z^{9x}$ .The two quantities are equal.Note that  $(z^6)^x$  is interchangeable with  $(z^x)^6$  and  $z^{6x}$ .

3.(B ).For a normal distribution,approximately two thirds of the values are within one standard deviation of the mean. Thus,roughly 1/6 of the population is more than a deviation above the mean,and 1/6 is more than a deviation below . Thus,about 1/6 of the test takers would score greater than 157 ( $154 + 3 = 157$ ,one standard deviation above the mean),so an even smaller fraction of the test takers would score greater than 158.

4.(A ).In order to isolate  $y$ ,eliminate both  $x$  and  $z$ .Because there are only two equations,both  $x$  and  $z$  must be eliminated at the same time if the value of  $y$  is to be determined.

Notice that the coefficients for  $x$  and  $z$  in the second equation (6 and 4,respectively) are exactly double their coefficients in equation 1 (3 and 2,respectively).Divide the second equation by 2,making the coefficients the same.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} 3x + 5y + 2z = 20 & \longrightarrow & 3x + 5y + 2z = 20 \\ 6x + 4z = 10 & \longrightarrow & 3x + 2z = 5 \end{array}$$

Now subtract the second equation from the first.

$$\begin{array}{r} 3x + 5y + 2z = \\ 20 - (3x + 2z = 5) \\ \hline 5y = 15 \\ y = 3 \end{array}$$

Quantity A is greater.

5.(D ).The range of list prices of automobiles is found by subtracting the price of the least expensive automobile from the price of the most expensive automobile. Given just the range, there is not enough information to determine the maximum and minimum list price vehicles from either manufacturer. Before selecting (D ), though, you should try to prove (D ). Construct two examples in which the list prices of the cars from Manufacturer X have a range of \$22,000 and the list prices of the cars from Manufacturer Y have a range of \$15,000, but the overall ranges are drastically different.

EXAMPLE 1:

List prices of Manufacturer X's cars range from \$10,000 to \$32,000

List prices of Manufacturer Y's cars range from \$10,000 to \$25,000

Here, the overall range is the same as X's range, which is  $\$32,000 - \$10,000 = \$22,000$

EXAMPLE 2:

List prices of Manufacturer X's cars range from \$10,000 to \$32,000

List prices of Manufacturer Y's cars range from \$100,000 to \$115,000

Here, the overall range is  $\$115,000 - \$10,000 = \$105,000$

In Example 1, the range = \$22,000 and the quantities are equal. In Example 2, Quantity A is much greater than Quantity B. It is not possible to make the range any smaller than \$22,000 (the minimum range of all the prices cannot be smaller than the larger of the two ranges of each manufacturer's prices), but it can get much, much larger.

Note that the testing done above was very important! If Quantity B had read "\$21,999," the answer would be (A) rather than (D).

The correct answer is (D).

6.(B ).Start inside the parentheses (according to PEMDAS, always deal with parentheses first).

$$4\# = \frac{1}{4} + 4, \text{ or } \frac{17}{4}.$$

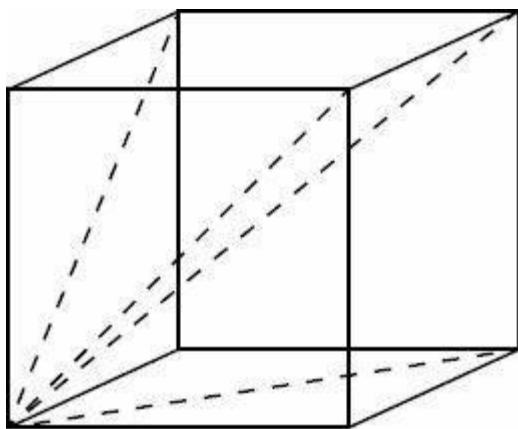
Since  $4\# = \frac{17}{4}$ , plug  $\frac{17}{4}$  in for  $x$  to get  $(4\#)\#$ .

$$\text{Thus, } (4\#)\# = \frac{1}{\frac{17}{4}} + \frac{17}{4} = \frac{4}{17} + \frac{17}{4}$$

While you could find a common denominator, it is more efficient to ballpark the value or simply use the calculator.

Ballparking,  $\frac{4}{4}$  is less than 0.25 and  $\frac{17}{4}$  is exactly 4.25, so the sum is less than 4.5. Using the calculator,  $\frac{4}{4} + \frac{17}{4}$  is about 4.485. Quantity B is greater.

7. (C). If a cube has side length of 4, all of the "straight line segments" connecting vertices of the cube *along an edge of the cube* will have length of 4. The only straight line segments between vertices that are longer than 4 are those that go diagonally through the cube or diagonally across a face. From a selected vertex of the cube, there are 3 diagonals across the adjacent faces of the cube, and 1 diagonal through the cube to the opposite vertex.



Thus, Quantity A is 4.

If a cube is placed on a flat surface, the maximum contact occurs when one cube face abuts the surface—and thus 4 cube edges touch the surface. There is no way to make more than 4 cube edges touch the flat surface at once. The two quantities are equal.

8. (D). The easiest first step is to divide both sides by 16. To do that, make sure you separate out  $160^2$  first. Notice that  $160^2 = 160 \times 160 = 16 \times 10 \times 160$ :

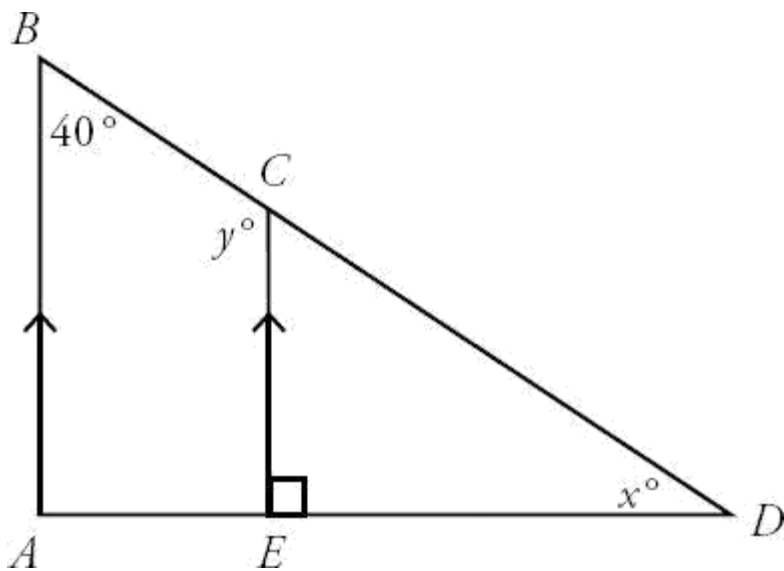
$$16 \times 10 \times 160 = 16x$$

$$10 \times 160 = x$$

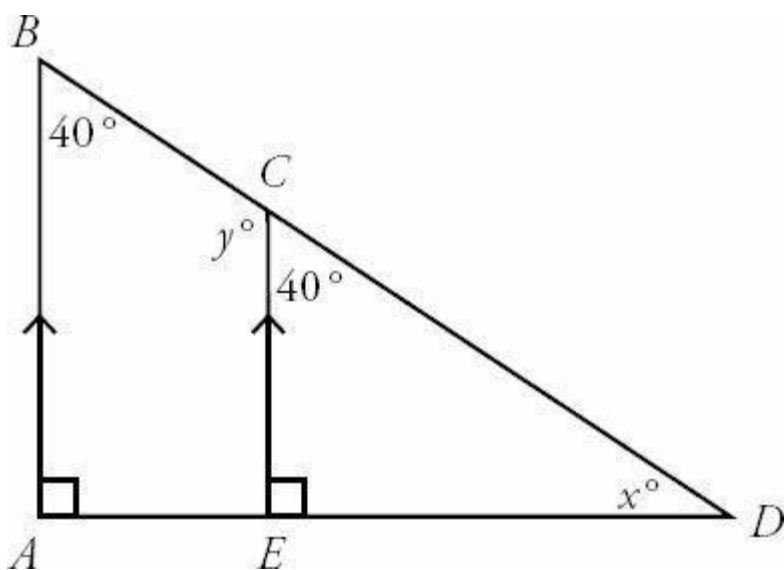
$$1,600 = x$$

None of the answer choices match this, so break 1,600 down into its primes ( $1,600 = 100 \times 16 = 25 \times 4 \times 16 = 5^2 \times 2^2 \times 2^4 = 5^2 \times 2^6$ ) and see which choice is equivalent. Alternatively, multiply out the answer choices to see which equals 1,600. The correct choice is (D).

9. 190. Redraw the figure, labeling all information given:



Since  $BA$  and  $CE$  are parallel, angle  $B$  and interior angle  $C$  are equivalent, as shown:



The two angles that meet at  $C$  make up a straight line, so they sum to 180 degrees:

$$180 = y + 40$$

$$y = 140$$

The three angles of triangle  $CDE$  must sum to 180 degrees, and so

$$180 = 40 + 90 + x$$

$$180 = 130 + x$$

$$x = 50$$

Therefore,  $x + y = 140 + 50 = 190$ .

10. **(D)**. At first glance, you might be tempted to think that each tick mark on this number line corresponds to a power of 2, but remember that powers grow exponentially (i.e. the distance between  $2^5$  and  $2^6$  is not the same as the distance between  $2^1$  and  $2^2$ ), whereas the tick marks in the diagram are evenly spaced. So, start by finding the distance between  $2^5$  and  $2^6$ .

$2^5 = 32$ , and  $2^6 = 64$ . The difference between them is 32. That means the distance between each tick mark on the number line is 32. So to get from  $2^5$  to  $x$ , "walk back" or subtract four intervals of 32:  $32 - 4(32) = -96$ .

Multiply out the answers to see which one equals -96. Only choice (D) works.

11. (E). There are two ways to solve this question, with smart numbers or algebra. Start with plugging-in. First, set a value for the volume. In this case, pick a perfect cube, so the side length and all other values will be integers. The smallest perfect cube (other than 1, which you should try never to use when doing plug-in questions) is 8.

A cube with a volume of 8 has a side length of 2, meaning each side has an area of 4. A cube has 6 sides, making the total surface area 24. (The equation for surface area is  $\text{Surface Area} = 6s^2$ ). The answer to this question is 24, based on these numbers.

Immediately eliminate any answer choices that have the square root of 8, as the result will not be an integer. The answer must be either (D) or (E). The cube root of 8 is 2. A answer choice (D) simply squares it, yielding 4. In answer choice (E), that result is multiplied by 6, producing 24, which is the required answer. Thus, the answer is (E).

If you wanted to solve with algebra, you'd need to start by solving for a side of a cube with volume  $v$ :

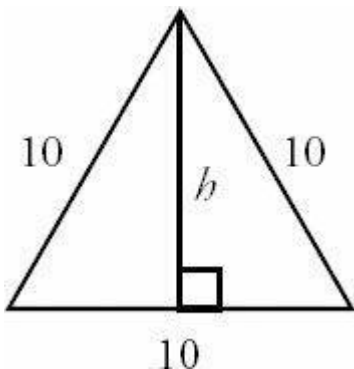
$$V = s^3 \quad \text{so} \quad s = (\sqrt[3]{v})$$

The equation for the surface area of a cube is  $6s^2$ . In this case, substitution for  $s$  results in exactly the expression written in answer choice (E).

12. (D). To find the area of an equilateral triangle with vertices at  $(-1, -3)$ ,  $(9, -3)$ , and  $(m, n)$ , you do not need to find the values of  $m$  and  $n$ . To find the area of an equilateral triangle, you only need one side. So, you should first find the distance between  $(-1, -3)$  and  $(9, -3)$ .

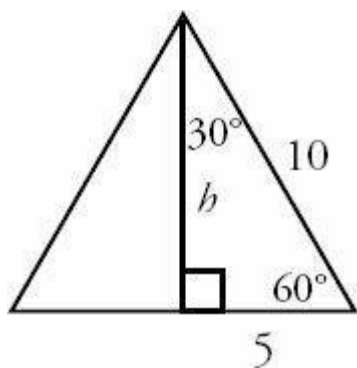
Since these two points are on a horizontal line together (they share a  $y$ -coordinate), the distance is just the difference between their  $x$ -coordinates:  $9 - (-1) = 10$ .

An equilateral triangle with side 10 will have the same area regardless of where it is placed on an  $xy$ -coordinate plane, so the location of  $m$  and  $n$  is irrelevant. Instead, draw an equilateral triangle with sides equal 10. Drop a height down the middle. 10



Dividing a 60–60–60 triangle in this way creates two 30–60–90 triangles. The bottom side of the triangle is bisected

by the height:



Using the properties of 30–60–90 triangles,  $h$  is equal to the shortest side multiplied by the square root of 3. Thus,

$h = 5\sqrt{3}$ . (You may also wish to memorize that the height of an equilateral triangle is always equal to half the side multiplied by  $\sqrt{3}$ .)

Find the area of the triangle, using 10 as the base:

$$A = \frac{bh}{2} = \frac{10(5\sqrt{3})}{2} = 25\sqrt{3}$$

13.(A). The percentage of women in a service who are single mothers is:

$$\frac{\text{\# single women with children}}{\text{\# women}}$$

Find the number of single mothers in each of the four services by looking at the first table, **Martial Status of Military Personnel by Gender and Branch**. The number of women who are single with children is given as:

Army 11,037  
Navy 5,859  
Air Force 6,313  
Marines 1,263

There are two ways to find the total number of women in each service, though. Either sum the exact number of women in each branch of the service across each of the marital status' given in the first chart, or read an approximate number of women from the second bar chart, **Number of Military Personnel by Gender and Branch**, then only bother to sum from the detailed chart if two answers are very close to each other.

Since using the chart will be faster and GRE problems are designed to be solved quickly, try approximating from the bar chart first. The total number of women in each of the four services is approximately

Army 75,000  
Navy 50,000  
Air Force 60,000

Marines 10,000

Calculate the approximate percent of women who are single mothers in each branch of the service.

Army	$11,000/75,000 = \text{about } 14.7\%$
Navy	$5,900/50,000 = \text{about } 11.8\%$
Air Force	$6,300/60,000 = \text{about } 10.5\%$
Marines	$1,300/10,000 = \text{about } 13\%$

The percent looks highest in the Army. At least, reason that the number of single mothers in the Army is about double the number of single women in either the Navy or Air Force, yet the total number of women in the Army is definitely less than double the total number of women in either the Navy or Air Force, making their percentage of women greater in the Army.

Just quickly check the actual totals for the Army and the Marines.

Army: single mothers = 11,037 and total women = 74,849. The percent is 14.7% .

Marines: single mothers = 1,263 and total women = 13,135. The percent is 9.6% .

Thus, the Army has the greatest percentage of women who are single and have dependents under the age of 18.

14.(B). The probability that a man whose spouse is also military personnel or retired military is NOT in the Air Force is given by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{\# of men in the "married, military spouse" category who are NOT in the Air Force}}{\text{total \# men in the "married, military spouse" category}}$$

All of the information needed to calculate both of these numbers is in the first table, **Martial Status of Military Personnel by Gender and Branch**.

The total number of men married to a military spouse or retired military in each of the four services:

$$15,058 + 8,638 + 20,760 + 4,719 = 49,175$$

Then just subtract the number of Air Force men in this category to get the number of men in such marriages who are not in the Air Force:

$$49,175 - 20,760 = 28,415$$

And finally:

$$\frac{28,415}{49,175} = 0.5778 \approx 58\%$$

15.(E ).In order to solve this problem ,m ake the tw o ratios equal.The ratio in question is W om en/Total,but W om en/M en is sim pler and w orks also,because Total depends only on W om en and M en):

$$\frac{\text{resulting \# of women in Army}}{\text{\# of men in Army}} = \frac{\text{\# of women in Air Force}}{\text{\# of men in Air Force}}$$

There are tw o w ays to find the num ber of w om en and m en in the A rm y and A ir Force.Either sum the exact num ber of w om en and m en in each m arital status for each branch of the service in question,or read an approxim ate num ber from the second bar chart,**N um ber of M ilitary Personnel by G ender and B ranch.**

Since the problem says to approxim ate and gives num bers in the answ er choices that can serve as guidelines, approxim ation from the bar chart w ill be good enough.

The im portant thing is to focus on the *structure* of the m ath.Since adding w om en to the A rm y w ill change the num ber of w om en in the A rm y,use a variable to represent the additional w om en.Let  $x$  represent the num ber of w om en w ho w ould have to enlist in the A rm y in order to m ake the ratios equal.

$$\frac{\text{current \# of women in Army} + x}{\text{\# of men in Army}} = \frac{\text{\# of women in Air Force}}{\text{\# of men in Air Force}}$$

From the bar chart,look up the approxim ate num bers:

	<u>A rm y</u>	<u>A F</u>
# of w om en	75,000	60,000
# of m en	475,000	270,000

The next step is to plug these approxim ate num bers into the equation and solve for  $x$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{75,000 + x}{475,000} &= \frac{60,000}{270,000} \\ \rightarrow 75,000 + x &= 475,000 \times \frac{60,000}{270,000} \\ \rightarrow x &= 475,000 \times \frac{60,000}{270,000} - 75,000\end{aligned}$$

Looking at the answ er choices,structurally,the answ er m ust be (D ) or (E),and the num bers in (E) are a better fit to the num bers approxim ated from the chart.

16.(C ).Since the question concerns the “fraction of the entire distance from C ity X to R esortville,” think of the

entire distance as equal to 1.B etw een C ity X and the first stop,the cable car travels  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,leaving  $\frac{2}{3}$  left to travel.



Between the first stop and the second stop, the cable car travels  $\frac{3}{5}$  of the remaining  $\frac{2}{3}$ , or  $\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{5}$ .

So far, the cable car has gone  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{11}{15}$ . Thus, the remaining distance is  $1 - \frac{11}{15} = \frac{4}{15}$ . Only choice (C) is equal to  $\frac{4}{15}$ , although this takes some manipulation of the choices to check.

Alternatively, construct a formula. The first leg of the journey leaves  $1 - \frac{1}{3}$  left to travel. The second leg of the journey subtracts another  $\frac{3}{5}$  of the remaining  $1 - \frac{1}{3}$ , or  $\frac{3}{5} \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)$ . Thus, the correct expression is  $1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{3}{5} \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)$ .

17. (D). If  $p$  and  $q$  are integers, then  $20p$  is even regardless of whether  $p$  is even or odd. Since  $20p + 3q$  is odd,  $3q$  must be odd. If  $3q$  is odd, then  $q$  is odd. Thus,  $q$  is odd, but  $p$  could be odd or even. The correct answer must be odd regardless of whether  $p$  is odd or even.

If  $p$  is odd, (A) is even, (B) is odd, (C) is even, (D) is odd, and (E) is even. Since the correct answer choice is the one that *must* be odd, only (B) and (D) are possibilities.

If  $p$  is even, (B) is even and (D) is odd. Thus, choice (D) is definitely odd and is the correct answer.

18. II and III only (330 and 352). Using your calculator, convert each choice to a percent, and determine whether that percent would round up or down to 8%.

The first choice  $= \frac{325}{4,400} \times 100 = 7.386\ldots\%$  This number would round down to 7%, not up to 8%.

The second choice  $= \frac{330}{4,400} \times 100 = 7.5\%$  This number rounds up to 8%, and thus this choice is correct.

The third choice  $= \frac{352}{4,400} \times 100 = 8\%$  exactly, and thus this choice is correct.

The fourth choice  $= \frac{375}{4,400} \times 100 = 8.522\ldots\%$  This number would round up to 9%, not down to 8%.

19. (A). When dealing with exponents, try to get (almost) everything in terms of common prime bases. Since all the answer choices have a base 4, leave those terms alone for now.

$$5^3 \text{ is already simplified}$$

$$27 = 3^3 \quad 225^2 = 25^2 \times 9^2 = (5^2)^2 \times (3^2)^2 = 5^4 \times 3^4$$

$$\frac{5^3(4^{45} - 4^{43})3^3}{5^4 3^4}$$

Replacing all of these in the equation, you get this:

$$\frac{(4^{45} - 4^{43})}{5 \times 3} = \frac{(4^{45} - 4^{43})}{15}$$

Cancelling 5's and 3's in the top and bottom:

$$\frac{4^{43}(4^2 - 4^0)}{15} = \frac{4^{43}(16 - 1)}{15} = \frac{4^{43}(15)}{15} = 4^{43}$$

Factor  $4^{43}$  out of both terms in the numerator and simplify:

20. **(A)** On March 1st, the ticket cost \$140. If he had purchased it on March 2nd, Harpreet would have paid \$168, which is \$28 more. To find  $x$ , use the percent change formula:

$$\text{Percent Change} = \left( \frac{\text{Difference}}{\text{Original}} \times 100 \right) \% = \left( \frac{28}{140} \times 100 \right) \% = 20\%$$

Thus,  $x = 20$ . If he had purchased the ticket on March 16th, he would have paid \$210, which is \$42 more than the \$168 he would have paid on March 2nd.

$$\text{Percent Change} = \left( \frac{\text{Difference}}{\text{Original}} \times 100 \right) \% = \left( \frac{42}{168} \times 100 \right) \% = 25\%$$

Thus,  $y = 25$  and the positive difference between  $x$  and  $y$  is 5. ("Positive difference" just means to subtract the smaller one from the bigger one, or to subtract either one from the other and then take the absolute value.)